

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 14-17, 19, and 20 are currently active in this case. Claims 2, 8, 13, and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice, claims 1, 5-7, 9-12, 16, 17, and 19 have been amended, and claim 20 has been added by the current amendment. No new matter has been added. See, by way of non-limiting example, Figure 11 and the corresponding disclosure for support.

In the outstanding office action, claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cameron. Applicant traverses the assertion that Cameron is available as 35 USC 102(b) art against Applicant. The Cameron patent issued on July 25, 2000. Applicant filed the current application less than one year from that date on November 07, 2000. Hence, Cameron is not available as 35 USC 102(b) art against Applicant.

Amended claim 1 defines a fail safe sensor; a programmable thermal sensor; halt logic to halt operation of the integrated circuit in response to the fail safe sensor indicating that a pre-programmed fixed threshold temperature has been exceeded; and clock adjustment logic to control the temperature of the integrated circuit in response to the programmable thermal sensor indicating that a programmable threshold temperature has been exceeded by decreasing a clock frequency of the integrated circuit. Because the thresholds temperatures are programmable, the programmable thermal sensor can be customized for the type of IC it is utilized on.

Similarly, claim 12 defines the steps of: sensing a temperature of an integrated circuit using a first sensor provided on the integrated circuit; sensing the temperature of the integrated circuit using a second sensor provided on the integrated circuit; halting operation of the integrated circuit in response to sensing with the first sensor that a pre-programmed

fixed threshold temperature has being exceeded; and controlling a clock frequency of the integrated circuit by decreasing the clock frequency when it is sensed with the second sensor that a programmable threshold temperature has been exceeded.

In contrast thereto, Cameron teaches a temperature sensor for sensing the temperature of the substrate 15 of the IC 10 relative to temperature thresholds "programmed at the metalization step in the formation of the [IC] ...." That is, the respective threshold temperatures for the shutdown circuit 45 and the frequency control circuit 42 are pre-programmed and fixed in Cameron. Consequently, in Cameron, the threshold temperatures are not modifiable based on, for example, the characteristics of the motor 5 controlled by the commutation controller 30 of the IC.

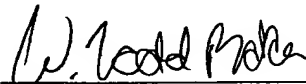
For the foregoing reason, Cameron is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by independent claims 1 or 12.

Applicant further submits that Cameron fails to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claims 3-7, 9-11, 14-17, 19 and 20 for at least the same reasons that it fails to anticipate or render obvious the independent claims. In particular, regarding newly added claim 20, Cameron does not teach or suggest that the IC is a microprocessor.

In view of the current amendment and the preceding remarks, no further issues are believed to be outstanding. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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